



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/613,282	07/03/2003	David Keane	022727-0092	4027
21125	7590	06/23/2004	EXAMINER	
NUTTER MCCLENNEN & FISH LLP WORLD TRADE CENTER WEST 155 SEAPORT BOULEVARD BOSTON, MA 02210-2604				FARAH, AHMED M
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		3739		

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/613,282	KEANE, DAVID
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Ahmed M Farah	3739

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### **Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                            2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## **Disposition of Claims**

- 4)  Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6)  Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-14 is/are rejected.  
7)  Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.  
8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All    b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/09/2003.

4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_ .  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_ .

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Double Patenting***

1. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

2. Claims 1-14 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-6 of U.S. Patent No. 6,632,223. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because to analogous apparatus and methods of use for treating atrial fibrillation.

### ***Claim Objections***

3. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: the examiner suggest that the word -- of -- to be inserted after the phrase "at least a portion" in line 4 so as to correct the structure of the sentence. Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Imran U.S. Patent 5,782,899.

In this Office Action, the term 'stent' is defined as "slender, rod, or catheter inserted into a tubular structure, such as blood vessel, to provide support during or after anastomosis." See <http://www.yourdictionary.com/ahd/s/s0738275.html>. In view of this definition, element 27 of Imran is treated to be a self-expanding stent, as presently claimed.

Hence, Imran discloses endocardium mapping and ablation system comprising an elongated catheter body 16; and a self expanding stent 27, the stent including an RF ablation electrodes 26 disposed along at least a portion of its length, the electrodes configured for surface contact of a body orifice being treated.

As to the limitation "an energy delivery line extending to said tip assembly" in claim 5, the ablation system includes mechanically linked energy delivery lines 73, 75, and 77 extending to the tip of the tip of the device.

As to the limitation that the delivery lines are "releasable connected to the stent," the energy delivery lines of Imran are not physically part of the expandable stent

(element 27). Therefore, the energy delivery lines of Imran are releasably connected to the stent 27, as recited in claims 5-7 of the instant application.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-14, rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Behl U.S. Patent No. 5,078,736.

As to claims 1, 2, and 4-14, Behl discloses an ablative stent device and method, the device comprising: a self expanding stent 51 adapted to be implanted and deployed within a vessel to support a circumferential support of the vessel (see Fig. 7 and Col.8, lines 23-24). The stent includes an ablation region along at least a portion of its length (see Col. 2, lines 49-51; and Figs. 7, 10, and 11). The ablation region adopted for contact with pulmonary vein (respiratory passage, see Col. 2, lines 1-5), as presently claimed. As to claim 2, the wire mesh shown in Fig. 7 has a winding at the proximal end of the stent, as presently claimed.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### ***Conclusion***

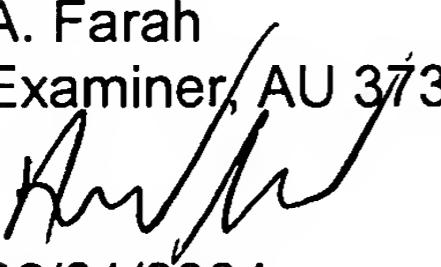
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Tue et al. (U.S. Patent 5,980,563) teaches ablation apparatus and method for treating a tissue of a patient, the apparatus comprising a self-expanding ablative element (spiral electrode 12) disposed at its distal end for contacting a pre-implanted stent 21 (see Fig. 5).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ahmed M Farah whose telephone number is (703) 305-5787. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur. 9:30 AM-7:30 PM, and 9:30 AM - 6:30 PM on every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda C.M DVorak can be reached on (703) 308-0994. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A. Farah  
Examiner, AU 3739  
  
06/01/2004.